

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are pending. Claim 40 is amended.

The U.S.P.T.O. has objected to the replacement sheet for Figure 3 submitted with the previous response. A Replacement Sheet is provided herewith to correct the drawing, thereby obviating the objection. The Replacement Sheet provided herewith shows Figure 3 as originally submitted with the following corrections: 1) braiding 149 is added, 2) a solid vertical line is added to clearly show the distal end 112 of non-deflectable portion 108 and proximal end 116 of steerable portion 114, and 3) thru tubing 152 is shown to clearly extend to thru lumen tubing distal end 170 by extending the single hash mark pattern of thru lumen tubing 152 to distal end 170. Additionally, the following reference numerals referred to in the originally-filed specification but not included in the original drawing have been added: 106, 196, 124, 122, 118, 114, 167, 112, and 116.

The U.S.P.T.O. has objected to the Specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter and objected to claim 40. Applicant has amended claim 40 to overcome the objections and place claim 40 in condition for allowance. Specifically, claim 40 has been amended to clearly set forth the relationship of the first and second shaft portions with the other portions of the shaft as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Koblish (US 2004/0193149) and/or under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koblish in view of additionally cited references. An affidavit timely filed by the Applicant will establish, under 37 CFR 1.131, an invention date of the pending claims prior to the filing date of Koblish, thereby removing the reference as prior art.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the present claims are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the instant rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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